

FORM B – BUILDING

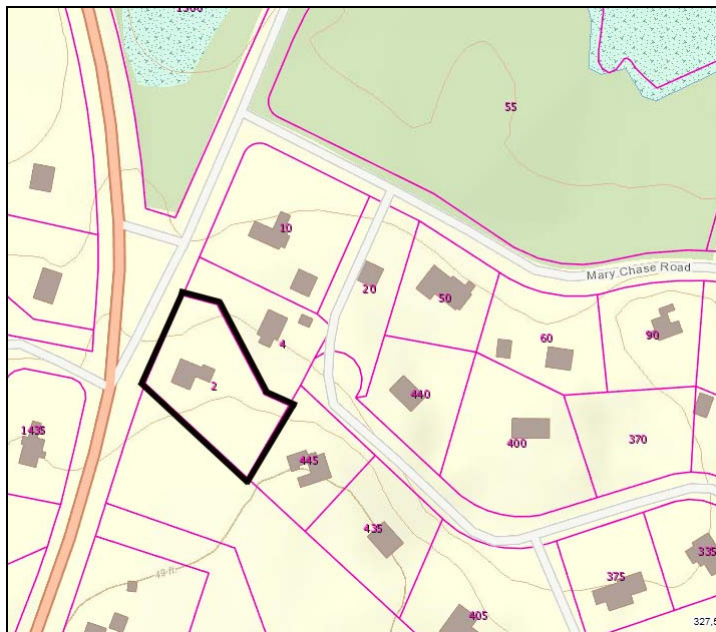
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View from west.

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Larson Fisher Associates with Kathryn Grover

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: April 2013

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

18-062A

ORLEANS

EAS.598

Town/City: Eastham

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): South Eastham

Address: 2 Governor Prence Road

Historic Name: possibly Samuel & Biah Freeman House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: pre-1858

Source: historic maps & deeds

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*): none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .67 acre

Setting: The subject property is surrounded by residential properties. It faces the southern intersection of Governor Prence Road with State Highway. Open space with protected wetlands are located a couple of lots to the north.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

2 GOVERNOR PRENCE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This one-story wood frame dwelling with gable roof and shed roof rear extension is a largely intact example of a simple Federal style which would support a reputed construction date of 1800; however, an inspection of interior finishes and construction details would be needed to more closely determine whether that date is feasible. It has a five-bay front facade with center entrance that retains its original Federal door surround. The door surround has a cornice topping a tall frieze below which is a four-light transom; attenuated pilasters flank the door, which may be a replacement. The house is clad with wood clapboards on the front facade, wood shingles on sides and rear, and has wood corner boards and water table. There is a brick endwall chimney. A small gabled dormer is on the rear roof, which was reclad in 2003.¹ The windows all appear to have been replaced, mostly with six-over-one sash, quite some time ago. A small gabled entrance vestibule was recently added off the left side off the rear extension; it is clad in wood shingles. A 1992 wood deck that once wrapped around the right and rear sides of the house was removed to allow for excavation of contaminated soil in 2009.

A 1½-story wood frame barn is located close behind the house. It has a front gable roof and is clad with wood shingles. A detached garage farther back on the property was removed when the property was subdivided in 1985 (see plan below).

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The town dates the house now numbered 2 Governor Prentice Road to 1800; the somewhat cloudy chain of title and the absence of early maps of Eastham make it impossible to determine if the date is accurate. If it is, it may have been the house of Samuel Freeman (1764-1836) and his first wife Abiah or Biah Doane (1764-1813). A member of the sixth generation of the Freeman family in the New World, Samuel Freeman appears to have been living on part of an estate that had been in his family probably since the late seventeenth century. According to one genealogical account Samuel Freeman, the second of that name in New England, came to Eastham from Watertown in 1638 and "purchased part of the valuable property of Governor Prentice and owned other fine tracts" in the town before he died in 1712. The same account states that his great-great-grandson Samuel Freeman, born in 1764, inherited and occupied the "paternal estate in Eastham."² He is shown as a property owner in the 1798 Direct Tax lists for Eastham. Both he and his younger brother Barnabas (1804-67) lived on the family estate, Barnabas probably occupying an older house before he moved to Newton in 1863.

The house at 2 Governor Prentice Road may have been built by Samuel (b. 1764) and occupied by his son Samuel (1791-1836) and the younger Samuel's wife, Sally Cobb Freeman; they married in 1821. Two years after the death of Samuel Jr. in 1836, his widow deeded the house to Asa Hopkins, a master mariner from Orleans.³ The chain of title establishes that Asa Hopkins owned this house, and his deed from Freeman is the only one of his property acquisitions in Eastham that clearly included a dwelling house.

Born in 1786 in Orleans, Asa Hopkins married Lydia Freeman (whose relation, if any, to Samuel Freeman has not been established) in Eastham in 1810. He was a master mariner, and he may never have lived in Eastham; instead he appears to have bought the property for his son and namesake, who married Eastham native Catherine Krogman in 1838, the year he bought the Freeman property.⁴ Both the 1840 and 1850 censuses indicate that Asa Hopkins, Jr. was already living in the neighborhood. In 1850 he is listed as a thirty-nine-year-old shipmaster born in Orleans, and he shared the house with his wife Catherine and their three children. The 1858 map of Barnstable County shows him across State Road from the home of Barnabas Freeman. His father remained in Orleans, where he is shown in both the 1850 and 1860 censuses.

The 1860 Eastham census shows Asa Hopkins as a master mariner with \$1000 in real property in a household with his wife Catherine and four children, Daniel P., then twenty-one; Mary, eighteen; and Charles, fifteen; and Ella, nine. Only Catherine and Ella survived the 1860s. Asa and daughter Mary both died of consumption in 1862; Daniel, a mariner, died in 1863; and Charles, also a mariner, died of consumption in 1868. The 1870 census shows Catherine Krogman Hopkins alone in her household. She was fifty-six and owned \$450 in real property.

Catherine Hopkins died in 1886 and in 1888 her only surviving child Ella, who married William H. Horton of Eastham in 1871, sold the acre parcel including the house as well as the acre of peat land to Adeline Stuart of Harvard, Massachusetts.⁵ Stuart, born Adeline Howe in Bolton in 1844, was the wife of shoe factory clerk Silas H. Stuart, born in 1823 in Worcester County. The couple lived with their son George in Bolton in 1860 and in Hudson in 1870; by 1880 they were living in Eastham. Stuart was then a farmer, and they lived with an adopted daughter and Adeline's married sister Emeline Boardman, a dressmaker. In 1897, after her husband died, Adeline Stuart returned to Hudson and deeded the 2 Governor Prentice Road property to Ezekiel Doane

¹ Town of Eastham records, building permit dated Aug. 29, 2003.

² William Richard Cutter, *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1908), 848-49.

³ Sally Freeman, widow, to Asa Hopkins, Orleans, 6 October 1838, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (BCD) 23:278. Hopkins paid \$1045 for 4.25 acres including a dwelling house, barn, and outbuildings and another parcel, an acre of peat swamp nearby.

⁴ Asa Hopkins to Asa Hopkins Jr., 14 December 1860, BCD 76:484. This deed abstract is tied to the wrong facsimile copy on the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds website, so the deed has not been reviewed.

⁵ William H. and Ella N. Horton, Quincy, to Adeline Stuart, Harvard, 2 October 1888, BCD 177:420.

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Fulcher.⁶ Fulcher, the son of farmer John Fulcher and his wife Josephine Doane, an Eastham native, owned 2 Governor Prence Road until 1942, though he may have lived somewhat further south on State Road. Directories and censuses consistently show him there, though the Governor Prence house may have had a State Road address at that time. Doane's younger brother, Obed Abelino Doane, born in 1883, is shown on Governor Prence Road in the 1929 directory and 1940 census. Still, the acre containing the house at 2 Governor Prence in these years was clearly owned by Ezekiel according to deeds and tax records; in 1931 he is shown with a house, barn and shed, outbuilding, and poultry house on a 1.5-acre homestead lot; in 1937 he owned the same property, but by then reduced to an acre lot. His brother Obed is shown in these years with a much larger homestead lot and a good deal more land overall.

The Fulchers' father John was born in Yarmouth, England, and was living in Eastham by 1859, when he married Josephine Doane, daughter of Ezekiel and Rachel Doane. Their son Obed's middle name comes from Josephine's brother, lifelong Eastham resident and farmer Abelino Doane, born in 1857. Ezekiel married Lillian Patterson of Quincy in 1895, and Obed married Chatham native Lottie Marion Young in 1905. The 1920 census lists Obed as a truck farmer on County Road (Route 6), while his brother is shown on the same road as a stationery engineer (custodian).

In 1942 Ezekiel Doane Fulcher sold the Governor Prence Road property to Chester Patterson Curtis, a pipe fitter for Bethlehem Steel Company's operation at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy.⁷ Born in 1893 and perhaps orphaned at an early age, Curtis married Flora Eldredge of Orleans before 1915; in 1917 he was living and working in Orleans. The Curtises had two children by 1927, and by 1930 they had divorced; he married Elnora Rogers at some point after that date. Tax records for 1947 show Curtis with an acre homestead lot, a house valued at \$1800, a barn and shed, a poultry house, and an outbuilding.

Curtis owned 2 Governor Prence Road until 1956, when he sold it to John P. Fulcher, a son of Ezekiel Doane Fulcher, and his wife Helen, then living in Orleans, and the Fulchers' married daughter, Dorothy Curtis and her husband Robert H. Curtis of Harwich; his relation, if any, to Chester Curtis is not known. An obituary for Dorothy Curtis noted that she and her husband bought "her family's homestead in Eastham in the 1950s."⁸ In 1969 the Fulchers sold their interest in the property to the Curtises. They subdivided the lot in two in 1985 (see plan below) but remained owners of Lot 1 with the historic house until they died.⁹ Robert Curtis died in June 2008 and Dorothy in October of the same year. On July 15, 2011 her executor sold the property to its current owners, Daniel R. and Rhonda J. Duhamel, then of Bow, New Hampshire.¹⁰

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MAPS

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⁶ Adeline Stuart, Hudson, to Ezekiel Doane Fulcher, 16 April 1897, BCD 598:64.

⁷ Ezekiel Doane Fulcher to Chester P. Curtis, 18 November 1942, BCD 598:65.

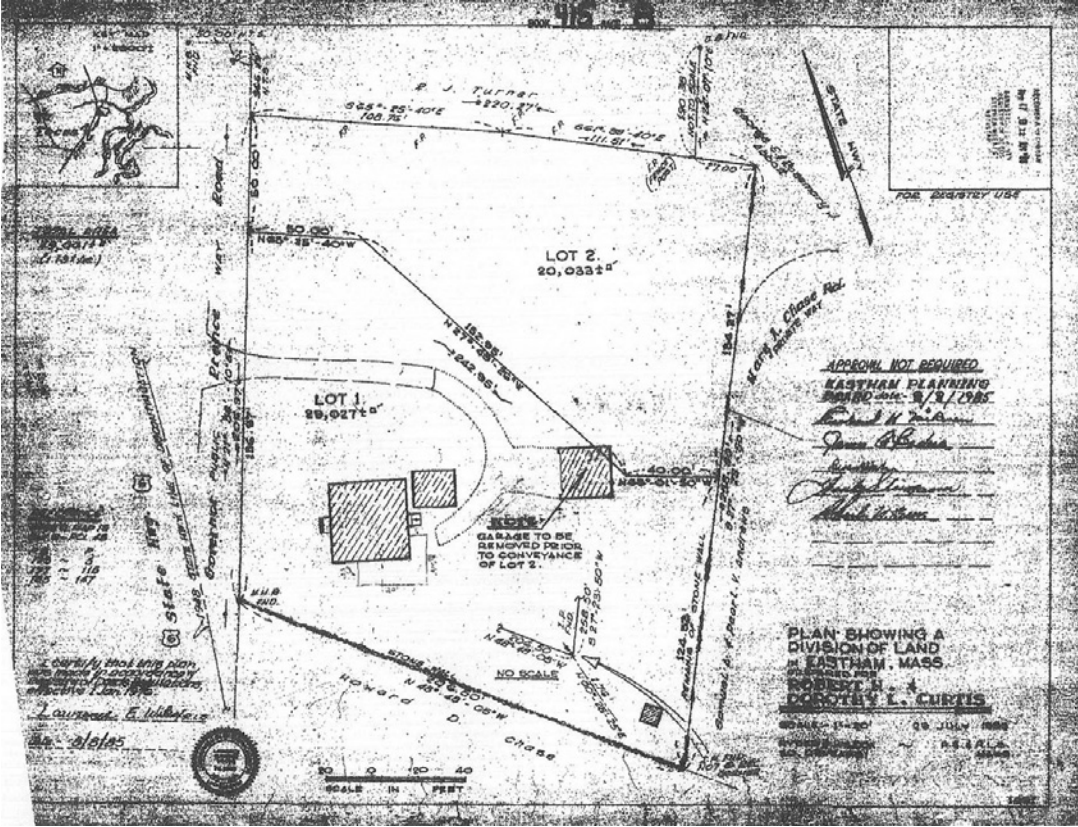
⁸ "Dorothy L. Curtis," *Cape Cod Times*, 2 November 2008.

⁹ Town of Eastham records, approved a lot division plan dated Aug. 8, 1985, that resulted in two lots; Lot 1 with 29,027 Sq. Ft., Lot 2 with 20,027 Sq. Ft.

¹⁰ Chester P. Curtis, Braintree, to John P. and Helen S. Fulcher, Orleans, and Robert H. and Dorothy L. Curtis, Harwich, 8 February 1956, BCD 934:75; John P. and Helen S. Fulcher, Orleans, to Robert H. and Dorothy L. Curtis, Route 6 Eastham, 25 June 1969, BCD 1441:564; Henry M. Curtis, executor estate Dorothy L. Curtis, to Daniel R. and Rhonda J. Duhamel, Bow NH, 15 July 2011, BCD 25566:123. See also "Plan Showing a Division of Land in Eastham, Mass., Prepared for Robert H. & Dorothy L. Curtis," July 1985, BCP 415:8.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Plan of 1985 subdivision of subject property.

PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)

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View from northwest.